

TO RAISE A MILLION.

THE TASK SET FOR THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH.

DR. ROBERTS' FIGURES OF GREAT INTEREST TO THE ASSEMBLY—THE TEMPERANCE AND OTHER IMPORTANT MATTERS CONSIDERED IN PITTSBURGH.

[BY TELEGRAPH TO THE TRIBUNE.]

Pittsburgh, May 24.—The here of the General Assembly to-day is William H. Roberts, assistant clerk, who delivered one of the memorial addresses at the reunion meeting last evening on the growth and future of the Presbyterian Church. After giving figures from the minutes which startled those who considered themselves versed in the history of the denomination, Dr. Roberts referred to a difficulty in the way of progress, namely, the financial indebtedness of the boards of the Church, amounting to more than \$600,000. No better way, he said, could be found to dispose of this liability than to gather an anniversary reunion fund, which shall bring at least \$1,000,000 into the treasury of the church. The Presbyterian Church, he added, is the wealthiest Protestant church in this country. The suggestion caught the house, and the Million-Dollar Fund Committee, consisting of fifteen ministers and ten elders, is to be appointed to raise this memorial offering, and Dr. Roberts is its treasurer. The following are the resolutions offered this morning by the Rev. Dr. W. L. McEwen, pastor of the Assembly Church:

Resolved, First, That we request of the Rev. W. H. Roberts, D. D., a copy of his admirable address on the growth of Presbyterianism during the last twenty-five years, for publication, that the same be issued as a supplement of "The Assembly Herald" for general distribution throughout our entire church.

Second, That we heartily endorse the suggestion made in that address, that an immediate effort be made to raise \$1,000,000 as an anniversary reunion fund.

Third, That as our Church has contributed during the twenty-five years \$4,000,000 to the missionary work of our Church, and that at the present time there remains an indebtedness of \$600,000, we request that the first contributions that are made to this fund shall go to liquidate this debt, and shall be provided for in the annual report of our Church, and that whatever sum is raised over and above this debt shall be divided among the various departments of our Church according to the established system of apportionment.

Fourth, That a committee, consisting of fifteen ministers and ten elders, be appointed by the Moderator to carry out the provisions of the above resolution.

Fifth, That W. H. Roberts, D. D., be requested to act as treasurer of this fund, and be authorized to employ such clerical help as may be most efficient to accomplish the desired purpose, and that any expenses, either of the committee or of Dr. Roberts, shall be paid by the Assembly.

Sixth, That acknowledgment of all contributions made to this fund shall be made in the columns of "The Assembly Herald."

Almost the entire day was given to two questions. During the morning the temperance question was the burning one, and the brethren waxed warm. The committee on Temperance reported through its chairman, the Rev. E. B. Newcomb, of Indiana. The committee said in part:

We note with pleasure the active and efficient part taken by ministers and members of our Church, especially in the great cities, toward overturning the iniquitous traffic in alcohol, and we commend those who are engaged in this noble work. It is an unholy but perfectly natural alliance with the liquor traffic. The only way to break this unholy alliance is for all who would call themselves patriots or Christians to unite in the work of destroying cursed drink and rescuing its victims.

The temperance deliberations of former Assemblies, which in unbroken line for more than eighty years are in favor of total abstinence for the individual and the abolition of the traffic in intoxicants, were reaffirmed. One resolution read as follows:

Resolved, That in the judgment of this Assembly the time has come when Christian men should make their influence felt directly and with power at the ballot-box, and that all voters connect with our communion are urged to vote against the granting of licenses for the sale of intoxicating liquors.

Considerable discussion arose over this motion, but there was only a small minority when the vote was taken. Having gone so far, the Rev. Dr. Page, of Kansas, one of the candidates for the Moderatorship, offered a resolution declaring that it is the duty of the Church of Christ to avoid even the appearance of evil, and as there is a well-grounded belief that dangers lie in the use of fermented wine at the communion table, it is the sense of this Assembly that unfermented fruit of the vine fulfills every condition in the celebration of the Sacrament.

George E. Sterry, of New-York, and others opposed this resolution, but it was carried through with an overwhelming vote. No question that has come before the body since the session began has created so much excitement as this. Dr. Booth gave every man desiring to speak an opportunity to be heard, and the hour for adjournment was reached before a half-dozen had been taken. The best of humor prevailed throughout the discussion and the friends of temperance feel that it has been a good day for their cause.

After deciding that the General Assembly should not be reduced in size nor held less frequently than it is, two hours were spent this afternoon in listening to the fraternal delegates from the United Presbyterian Church, meeting at the East End in this city, the Waldensian Church of Italy, the General Synod of the Reformed Church in the United States, the General Synod of the Reformed Episcopal Church and the Alliance of the Reformed Churches throughout the world holding Presbyterian system.

When the representative of the Waldensians was introduced, Dr. Booth greeted him in Italian, and the visiting minister, quoting from Dante, in the original, said that he was tempted to ask the Moderator to translate the quotation, but on consideration he would refrain from doing so. The most striking address of the half-dozen or more was delivered by the Rev. Dr. W. T. Sabine, of New-York, representing the Reformed Episcopal Church, organized in Philadelphia in 1873 as a protest, the speaker said, "against those sacerdotal and sacramental tendencies which for many years have been leavening and unprotestantizing the Church of England and her daughter, the Protestant Episcopal Church in the United States."

Dr. Sabine said that to tell the story of this decade would require a travelling back to the Nicene period and its corruptions, for ritualism and sacerdotalism take their appeal not to the New Testament and the pure and simple faith and worship of an Apostolic Christianity, but to the following dark age of externalism, frivolous superstition and idol worship. Growing warm with his theme, he continued: "Yes, and beyond that, which calls us to analyze the human heart itself and show how in its innate depravity it is ever more prone to substitute a law of works and ceremonial observances, fastings and penances and prayers in place of the finished salvation of the Lord Jesus Christ."

Dr. Booth was extremely felicitous in his reply to the visiting delegates, and the audience dispersed after singing "The Lord is My Shepherd, I Shall Not Want."

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